

California Safe-to-Swim Workgroup

Freshwater Safe to Swim – Subworkgroup Meeting Notes

July 10, 2013

Attendees:

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Agenda *italicized*.

1. Introduction of Sonia Djordjevic, Assistant Research Scientist – SWRCB (intern).

- a. *Biography: 2nd year MPH student at UCLA School of Public Health in the Environmental Health Science Department. Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Cell Biology from UCSD '07. Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area.*

2. Goals and Objectives for this survey

Support the My Water Quality Portal by adding useful water quality information for freshwater swimming and wading activities.

Identify freshwater “safe to swim” water quality monitors, data sets, data users. We also need consensus for this project regarding the parameters we will focus on (e.coli, fecal coliform, total coliform, Giardia, Cryptosporidium, blue green algae blooms (microcystins) ...).

Initiate discussions on how freshwater safe to swim data is used and how the My Water Quality portal can display and make this data useful information.

Summary of

- SWAMP's “Bacteria Monitoring Inventory of California's Freshwater Beaches- March 2008”
- Freshwater Safe to Swim related information found within CEDEN

Parameters:

- Check the water quality objectives for each region.
- EPA's parameters and water quality standards.

It is hard to measure saxitoxins and anatoxins. Some data may be available from water purveyors. Coliform, total coliform, E. coli, and enterococcus are widely used currently as parameters for measuring water quality. It is hard to assay giardia.

Los Angeles county- limited monitoring of seasonal recreational waters. The tests take 48 hours so the data is always 2 days behind the current quality of the water. Without chlorine in the water, there are elevated levels of bacteria.

Humboldt county- microcystin/blue-green algae swimming advisories are available in the form of postings.

Madera County- use fecal coliform and total coliform but not enterococcus to measure water quality. Monitor Bass Lake from May-September and post advisories onsite. Usually only test when there is a notification that there has been discharge of sewage into the lake. Notifies the regional board and the health officer about this.

The California Safe-to-Swim Workgroup and the SWRCB's Blue Green Algae workgroup should collaborate on informing the public via the "Safe to Swim" My Water Quality Portal.

3. Discussion of survey.

A draft survey tool can be found at:

http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e64ygfq5h4ixnxb7/start?TEST_ONLY_RESPONSES_NOT_SAVE_D=t

Is the draft survey asking the right questions?

Please provide feedback and other possible questions.

Swimmer's itch is a concern in many places, but data is mostly anecdotal and cannot be measured in terms of water quality.

Question #6: Add an "If yes"... what kind of information is given to the public to inform them about water quality for swimming safety?

Question #8: need another option and a comment box. Add episodic, sporadic, and comprehensive. Refer to #17

Question #10: What is the other in reference to? Change to include own agency or other agency

Question #12: No giardia? Keep enterococcus – if people are monitoring then we need to know the data. No one monitors for swimmer's itch so don't include it within the survey.

Question #14: Title 17 – contact waters (follow up)

How is the data being analyzed? Who is doing it? Is QA/QC being done?

Drop Question #15 and #16:

4. Contacts to send this survey to?

Discussion: Please help us send this survey to those that monitor and collect "safe to swim" water quality data, those that use "safe to swim" water quality data but do not necessarily collect their own data and other groups that we should include.

- Health officers
- Beach Water quality list
- Citizen monitoring groups
- Lyris listserv(s)
- Tribal groups

- National Parks
- 2008 study
- Projects that entered freshwater relevant Safe to Swim into CEDEN.

5. *Wrap-up*

- a. *Schedule follow up meeting(s)*- Make a doodle to determine this